

Ozal party takes early lead in election

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's ruling Conservative Party took an early lead in Sunday's parliamentary election, which was widely expected to give Prime Minister Turgut Ozal a fresh five-year mandate for economic reforms. His Motherland Party took 39.07 per cent of the first 541,278 votes counted, enough for a comfortable majority in the expanded 450-seat parliament, official sources said. About 20 million people voted in the most open election since the 1980 coup which crushed extremist violence. Turkey, which applied last April to join the European Community, is keen to brush up its tarnished democratic image. The sources said the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SDPP) had taken 24.46 per cent of the vote so far and the right-of-centre True Path Party (TPP) 18.89 per cent. The four other parties, including the Muslim Fundamentalist group, were all below the 10 per cent needed to take seats in parliament. Mr. Ozal, 60, had campaigned on his record of political stability and economic liberalisation since taking office in 1983's military-supervised elections.

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King sends messages on summit to five heads of state

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent messages outlining the results of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit to the leaders of India, Turkey and Indonesia. The messages were delivered to the ambassadors of the three countries to Jordan by acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dridin in separate meetings on Sunday. Mr. Dridin also asked the Jordanian ambassadors to Morocco and Indonesia to convey similar messages to the presidents of Senegal and Malaysia.

Rifai meets outgoing envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met on Sunday with the Indonesian and Japanese ambassadors to Jordan on the occasion of the end of the envoys' missions in Amman. Later in the evening, Mr. Rifai also received in separate meetings Jordan Bar Association President Hussein Majali, General Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Hamdi Tabba, Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan, and the director general of the company for radio and television production, Jawad Marqa.

Danish energy minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The Danish minister of energy arrived in Amman on Sunday to take part in the meetings of specialised conferences on prospects for oil and future development in the Arab countries due to open here on Tuesday. The Danish guest was received upon his arrival at the Queen Alia International Airport by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatab, Danish Under-Secretary Ibrahim Badran, the Danish ambassador to Jordan and members of the Danish diplomatic mission in Amman.

Bangladesh cities remain under curfew

DHAKA (R) — Police re-imposed curfews and paramilitary police stepped up patrols in five cities after Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad proposed talks with his opponents on fresh elections. Police aid 14-hour curfews were reimposed in Dhaka, Chittagong, Daulat, Narayanganj and Rangpur at 4 p.m. (1000 GMT) after a night-hour recess. Paramilitary police in trucks mounted with machineguns began patrolling streets of the country's capital, Dhaka, to enforce the curfew.

Poles vote in referendum

VARSAW (AP) — Poles voted Sunday in the nation's first referendum in 41 years, deciding whether to endorse government plans for democratisation and a radical economic reform package that includes higher prices. A steady stream of voters showed up at flag-decked polling stations around the country. The government news agency PAP said turnout appeared higher than in Poland's last elections in 1985 (see page 8).

Iraqi polls called off

ORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Iraq's first free elections in 30 years were called off after the polls opened Sunday because of widespread violence, officials said. More than 20 people were reported killed overnight. "The elections are cancelled," Pierre Khatib, an official of the independent electoral council, said. Automatic weapons fire, sirens and explosions reverberated round Port-Au-Prince overnight and early Sunday. By mid-morning, the streets of the capital city of one million were virtually deserted. After daylight, Western reporters who tried to move in the streets were shot at, and some were pinned down in buildings.

Jordan Times

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King: Jordan's defence of Palestinian rights is a national commitment

His Majesty, in message marking International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian people, reaffirms pledge to pursue just settlement

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan's defence of the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people was unquestionable since the Kingdom's stand stemmed from its historic and geographic links with the Palestinian people, its national commitments to them and the mutual interests of Jordanians and Palestinians.

"Jordanians and Palestinians form one part of the same nation which is the target of the same aggression, and therefore we accept what our brothers under occupation accept because they are the party that faces the consequences of the Israeli occupation," the King said in a message to the U.N. Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The message was sent on the eve of the anniversary

of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

In the message, delivered on his behalf by Mr. Abdullah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, the King said that the struggle for Palestine was "between the legitimate owners of land and the usurpers of that land."

"Jordan's position was, and still is, is based on rescuing the

land and the Israeli occupation prior to enhancing the presence of the Palestinian people in their soil," the King said in his message. He said that despite failure of past efforts to liberate the land and the people, Jordan "will continue to extend support to the Palestinians to strengthen their steadfastness in the face of Israel's plans to annex and Judaize Arab land."

Following are major excerpts from the King's message to the U.N. committee:

I express my appreciation to you for your valuable efforts in defence of the rights of the Palestinian people and your endeavours to put an end to the sufferings and the tragedy of that people living in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This tragedy has been aggravated in the absence of a just and honourable peace and in view of continued occupation.

The annual observance of the

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People has a special importance. It is a living proof of the just Palestinian cause which we consider as a means for renewing our commitment to the rights of the Arab people of Palestine and a new pledge for serious and perseverant efforts aimed at safeguarding their rights, hoping for the fulfilment of a just solution of their problem on the basis of international legitimacy and the principles of the United Nations Charter and U.N. Security Council Resolutions 338 of 1973 and 242 of 1967.

There is no doubt that your efforts form a tributary enhancing our concept that the basis of peace between the Arabs and Israel means the achievement of justice for the Palestinians. This conception stems from the Palestinian people's demands for their rights which enjoy the sup-

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians stage violent protests on eve of anniversary of partition vote

Four Arabs wounded by occupation army

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot at hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators Sunday, wounding four, the army and Arab sources said.

The protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip marked the 40th anniversary of United Nations vote to partition Palestine, a decision that paved the way for the creation of Israel in May 1948.

Palestinians also staged commercial strikes throughout the occupied territories, and the army reported firebomb and stone-throwing attacks on Israeli soldiers.

Large contingents of soldiers and police were deployed in the West Bank and Gaza in anticipation of demonstrations during the anniversary.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians in

clashes at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, the West Bank's largest city 60 kilometres north of Jerusalem, according to the Palestine Press Service.

In the Jabelia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, troops forced their way into a girls' school after pupils threw petrol bombs at a military vehicle and soldiers, an army spokesman said.

In Khan Yunis, protesters burned tyres and threw stones.

In the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin, Israeli troops fired tear gas to disperse protesters who raised Palestinian flag and burned gas.

Students boycotted classes at the Islamic and Polytechnic universities in Hebron in protest against the partition plan.

The army said a curfew was imposed on Balata.

In the Gaza Strip city of Rafah, meanwhile, a 17-year-old high

school student was shot in the leg when soldiers opened fire to disperse about 500 protesters, a Palestinian reporter said.

The reporter identified the student as Sami Jarhoul of the village of Deir Al Sultan, and said 15 protesters were arrested.

The protesters fled Palestinian flags and pictures to telephone wires, chanted anti-Israeli slogans and stoned soldiers, said the reporter who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

In the Askar refugee camp near Nablus, troops fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters, the army official said.

Commercial strikes were reported in Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin and Arab Jerusalem.

The army said a bomb was safely dismantled in Gilo, a Jewish neighbourhood in Arab Jerusalem.

Israelis use flares to terrorise S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Panic spread in South Lebanon Sunday night when flares, believed to be fired by Israeli soldiers, spread over the port city of Tyre while Israeli gunboats cruised off the Lebanese coast, sparking fears that an Israeli attack was in the making in retaliation for last Wednesday's Palestinian commando attack which killed six Israeli soldiers and injured seven others in an Israeli military camp.

The French news agency (AFP) reported that at least three Israeli gunboats were seen off the coast near to the Palestinian re-

lease for an Islamic tribunal at Tehran, authorities said.

The resolution, accepted by Chairman Yasser Arafat, a translator at the Iranian embassy in Paris, was for questioning in connection with terrorist bombings, left the blockaded building Sunday, appeared before a magistrate and then departed for Tehran, authorities said.

The movement's representative in Cairo, Zuhdi Al Kudra, raised the Palestinian flag over the main PLO office in a southern section of the city as 15 to 20 Palestinians including women applauded.

He said all of the closed offices were being reopened. Despite the closure, he said, no Palestinian officials had been expelled from Egypt.

Mr. Kudra, who represents the biggest PLO group, Fatah, told reporters the organisation was very grateful for Egypt's decision.

PARIS (AP) — Wahid Gordji, a movement that no charges were filed against Gordji and that he was allowed to go freely.

After leaving the courthouse, Gordji was taken under strong police escort to Le Bourget airport where he was put aboard a private jet aircraft. Police cars continued to follow the aircraft down the runway until it took off.

There was no more information over the Tehran questioning of the French consul.

IRNA said Mr. Torri had "long been wanted by the Islamic revolutionary tribunal for some explanations, but had so far continued to refuse to appear."

The agency, however, did not spell out the charges against Mr. Torri or mention previous Iranian allegations of spying.

Iran has already agreed to send Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to the talks.

Iraqis bomb Iranian power stations

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said its warplanes bombed installations at two electricity generating dams in southwestern Iran and a ship in the Gulf on Sunday.

Iraq reported it was sending an envoy to the United Nations for negotiations on the Security Council's ceasefire resolution on the Gulf war.

An Iraqi military communiqué said waves of Iraqi jets "penetrated enemy air defences and raided highly important economic targets" linked with Iran's war effort.

The communiqué, quoted in an Iraqi News Agency (INA) dispatch monitored in Cyprus, said the warplanes inflicted serious damage on the power distribution network at Grand Reza Shah.

The agency identified the dam using the name of the facility before the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, whose father was Reza Shah. The new name was not known.

Simultaneously, other jets struck at the Al Diz dam's electricity distribution station, leaving it "gutted with explosions," the agency said.

Iraq did not comment on the Iraqi report.

Iraqi jets raided a "big naval target" off the Iranian coast, INA quoted the communiqué as saying, using the term customary for tankers and other vessels attacked.

An air operations official at the Al Diz dam's electricity distribution station, leaving it "gutted with explosions," the agency said.

The agency said the plane was missing Sunday somewhere near Burma and may have crashed into the sea or thick jungle, officials said.

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The four-engine Boeing 707 jet was carrying 95 passengers and a flight crew of 20, the airline said. All but two of the people aboard were South Korean nationals, officials said.

The Burmese civil aviation administration in Rangoon said the plane was over the Andaman sea some 240 kilometres west of the Burmese coastal town of Tavoy when contact was lost.

Burmese officials told AP in Rangoon that the plane was making routine contact with air-traffic controllers at Rangoon airport before proceeding into Burmese air space when it disappeared.

Burmese officials informed the South Korean government that a search operation had been laun-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday addresses the opening session of the third Round of Euro-Arab dialogue organised by the Amman-based Royal Institute for International Affairs (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Crown Prince questions motivations behind U.S. naval presence in Gulf

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday questioned the motivations behind the presence of foreign navies in the Gulf and said the cause of peace and limit Soviet influence?"

In this regard, Prince Hassan said, one thing is clear: "It cannot be all these things at the same time."

"While the protection of Kuwaiti ships is necessary and desirable, it becomes rather para-

turn lead to improvement of the Iranian war machine and its capabilities," he said.

Meantime, Prince Hassan said, the Americans "do not show the kind of resolve that would deter Iran from pursuing its war aims for the fear of driving Iran into the Soviet orbit."

The Crown Prince warned that the region could no longer afford this kind of "reactive diplomacy" of doing things and finding the

Third round of Euro-Arab dialogue opens in Amman

explanation for it afterwards," and called for a "well-thought out, coherent and comprehensive policy which addresses itself to the problems of the region rather than deal with its symptoms all the time."

(Continued on page 3)

Full text of the Crown Prince's speech appears on page 5

Arab and European experts assess impact and future course of Gulf war

By Jordan Times Reporters

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the third round of Euro-Arab dialogue that began Sunday to focus its discussions on the convergence of threats from regional hotspots rather than dwell on analysis of present developments in the area.

Addressing the opening session of the third round of Euro-Arab dialogue in Amman, the Crown Prince said there were four major questions concerning the U.S. presence in the Gulf.

"Is it there to protect Kuwaiti ships? Is it there to guarantee the freedom of navigation in interna-

tional waters? Is it there to contain Iran's war and its quest for hegemony over its neighbours? Is it there to check communist penetration of the region and limit Soviet influence?"

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Home news

Saqqa in Cairo, preparing for higher committee talks

CAIRO (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation led by the Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Mohammad Saqqa arrived here on Sunday to prepare the ground for the meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee due to open on Thursday, under the co-chairmanship of the prime ministers of both countries.

Mr. Saqqa said in a statement that the Egyptian and Jordanian sides will discuss aspects of cooperation in education, economic and social development, transport, tourism and industry. They will make plans for future joint projects.

Following the meetings, the two sides will sign the minutes of their deliberations, in addition to a protocol on bilateral trade and trade deals, amounting in value to \$250 million.

Also on Sunday, Director of the Jordan Cement Factories Company Khalidoun Al Thaer left for Cairo to hold talks with Egyptian officials on renewal of a contract for selling cement to Egypt, in accordance with the provisions of a deal previously concluded between the two countries.

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W. Germany to grant aid for rural development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The West German government is to grant Jordan technical assistance for the development of rural regions, in accordance with memoranda on cooperation in technical fields signed by the two sides here on Sunday.

Under the memoranda, West Germany will dispatch experts and equipment for improving the

living conditions of people in the rural regions of the Zarqa River Basin and will offer training for Jordanian personnel who will then replace the German experts.

The memoranda were signed by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and Dr. Herwig Bartels, West Germany's ambassador to Jordan.

Jordan, Mosul universities sign exchange programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan on Sunday signed an executive programme with the Mosul University of Iraq, implementing their bilateral agreement on educational and cultural cooperation.

The programme provides for bilateral exchanges of teachers in all specialisations, conducting joint scientific research and holding seminars at the two universities.

The two sides agreed to accept students for post-graduate studies at either university, exchange publications and student visits and encourage the holding of scout camps.

The executive programme was signed by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali and Dr. Abdullah Al Khashab, presidents of the University of Jordan and Mosul University, respectively.

UNRWA nurses obtain community health training

AMMAN — The Health Department of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) headquarters here on Sunday commenced a workshop entitled "Orientation for Community Health Nursing," sponsored jointly by UNRWA and Save the Children Fund.

The week-long workshop aims at strengthening the knowledge and skills of the senior staff nurses in the area of community health nursing and at enabling senior nurses to plan, implement and supervise community nursing activities.

The emphasis will be on mother and child health care uti-

lising a community nursing process.

The workshop sessions will be held in Beqaa refugee camp, to facilitate concurrent practical exercise in the community, and to benefit from the experience of UNRWA's Community Health Nursing programme.

The Jordan Field pioneered in 1983 by introducing the programme into its health services.

Participating in the workshop

will be senior nurses from UNRWA's fields of operations, namely: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

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An International Organization based in Amman requires the services of a young, energetic and dynamic person for the post of an Assistant Information and Communication Officer. The candidate for this post should be a Jordanian national with degree in Journalism, Communications or Social Sciences; 4 - 5 years professional experience in the fields of Communications, mass media or journalism. The candidate should have an excellent command of written and spoken Arabic and English. Knowledge of French is highly desirable.

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Candidates meeting these requirements should apply in writing to the Personnel Section, P.O. Box 811721, Amman, Jordan by not later than December 15, 1987.

Road accidents symposium reviews papers covering all aspects of problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on the prevention of road accidents continued here on Sunday with the participants discussing several working papers at two separate sessions.

The first paper, on Jordan's legislation on traffic and roads issued in 1984, covered all matters dealing with the imposition of fines and penalties for traffic violations, vehicle testing and imposing speed limits.

The second paper dealt with the causes of road accidents and the role of drivers, as well as the condition of roads. The paper also touched on the role of insurance companies which deal with compensation for accidents caused when drivers violate traffic regulations.

In addition, the paper recommended an increase in public awareness campaigns on the use of safety belts on highways and motorways.

Another paper dealt with road

the setting up of road signs to guide drivers at night, as well as during the day.

The second session reviewed five working papers, the first of which covered first aid and medical care for road accident victims and the role of the civil defence services on the road.

The paper attributed the increased number of accidents on the road to speeding. It also named the health ministry as one of the departments responsible for rescuing victims and offering aid to the injured.

One of the five papers covered the involvement of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which, it said, draws attention to the dangers of the road and holds seminars and conferences to deal with the problem of road accidents.

Deputy Mayor of Amman Mr. Ismail Armitou opened the seminar at the Greater Amman Municipality by referring to the municipality's efforts to upgrade the condition of roads.

Meanwhile, a specialised seminar on road maintenance continued here on Sunday. The week-long seminar, which opened on Saturday, is discussing road specifications and maintenance, road design and impediments to traffic flow in the country.

During his address to the Sunday opening of a seminar on child spacing and its effect on the health of both mother and child, Dr. Hamzeh said that, on the average, women with no school-

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The EC and the development of the occupied territories

THE CATASTROPHE of 1967 and the resulting occupation of Arab territories became basically a Jordanian trauma. Following the conclusion of the Camp David Accords and culminating in the return of Sinai to Egypt, Jordan had to withstand greater pressure. In addition, the Rabat Summit Conference of 1974 recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians. This again created many role identification problems for Jordan. Jordan is somehow continuously caught in a Catch-22 situation. If it opts to follow the resolution in letter and spirit, it would be open for criticism of abandonment. If it chooses a more practical path, it is exposed to encroachment and reprimands.

No one should deny the fact that Jordan is morally, geographically, economically, politically, socially and militarily committed to the West Bank and to a lesser degree to the Gaza Strip. The 1974 Rabat resolution was meant to boost the PLO and the Palestinian identity everywhere as expressed through the PLO. Yet no one has ever gone through the strenuous exercise of delineating the lines of responsibility and authority of the concerned parishes as a result of that 1974 resolution. Matters were left to be determined *de facto*; but *de jure* the issue is as ambiguous now as it was in 1974, if not more.

However, if we are unable to interpret the 1974 Rabat resolution and what it means in terms of rights and commitments, we can at least attempt to identify the things which it did not mean. These are:

First: Jordan's role in the Palestinian issue cannot be marginalised. We cannot speak of Jordan's role as we speak of Djibouti's. Jordan still pays and contributes to the sustenance and maintenance of a decent standard of living allowable under occupation. To say that Jordan should, for instance, close the bridges with the West Bank is tantamount to surrendering the land to the Israeli authorities.

Second: The Camp David Accords wanted to define a role for Jordan in a partly occupation-free West Bank territory. That role, however, was rejected by Jordan because it was assigned the role of a policeman and because, regardless of the role, Jordan had no say in defining it.

Third: Jordan has continuously acknowledged the role of the PLO, in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions. Political and administrative coordination and cooperation has continued. Yet when it comes to political possibilities, Jordan must act pragmatically. Any serious deviation from this work cannot be accepted by Jordan because such an acceptance would mean the promise of achieving the impossible. Jordan cannot be expected, on the grounds of its relations with the West, to achieve every political aspiration of the PLO if the PLO itself is not willing to accommodate.

Fourth: The freezing of political coordination between Jordan and the PLO should not stifle movement. The world does not wait; it moves, acts and reacts according to a set of circumstances and vested interests.

Fifth: There is the painful reality that the Israeli occupation does not cease to take daily steps leading to the annexation of the land. The Israeli right-wing is now dominating the political scene and squeeze the less hawkish elements to follow. Any relaxation in Arab efforts, Jordan's in particular, would be a boost to the Israeli hawks and would help them implement their plans of total annexation.

Sixth: Jordan is a "centrist" country in mood, action and reaction. This philosophy and attitude can be very painful in a world which tends to radicalism and pseudoradicalism. Yet, it can be rewarding as it did in the last Arab summit conference in Amman. The "centrist" role is most useful and it should be strengthened by strengthening Jordan's political profile. To try to disintermediate Jordan is in effect an act that can be described as "dubious" to say the least. Those who benefit from suffocating "positive centrism" are the ones who benefit from irrational radicalism and want to keep the area in disarray, an ideal situation from which they can benefit.

It is in the light of these points that we must address our guest, Mr. Claude Cheysson. We must impress upon him the fact that Jordan cannot accept pressure which would lessen its moderating role in the Middle East. To make statements that the EC, where he holds a key position, should deal directly with the occupied territories through Israeli red tape and outlets is a very serious matter. Whether said in good will or not, it paves the road for further polarisation of the Israeli position and exposes Jordan's security to incalculable dangers. The EC has adopted very rational and balanced resolutions and the spirit of Venice should not be stabbed in the back. Any aid going to the West Bank must be channelled through Jordan, and in full cooperation with its competent authorities. To diverge funds directly to the West Bank cannot be a neutral act, because it will be used by the Israelis and would give them a bigger chance to channel such funds in a manner that would enhance the occupation.

Moreover, an analyst should not disregard the fact that if the EC or any other party channels its aid to the occupied territories without prior arrangement with Jordan, it will in effect satisfy the radical elements in the PLO who call for the elimination of Jordan's role in the whole Palestinian affair. Thus, radical elements in the PLO and rightist radicals in Israel would be given a chance to converge against centrist rational positions.

Jordan has always honoured its commitments to the occupied territories, and has sought only to shoulder its human and moral responsibilities. It has never sought to utilise the issue for political gains. However, this in no way means that Jordan can sit idle and watch the potential growth of an autonomous entity nurtured by the Israelis in its borders. We should keep in mind what the Israelis are doing in South Lebanon and what they have done in the Golan Heights.

Mr. Cheysson should realise that we want firm relations with the EC based on mutual respect. Any statements or acts which may undermine Jordan's position and pivotal role in the Arab World should be reconsidered.

Middle East peace process postponed

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

IT SEEMS more inevitable now than ever that the peace process in the Middle East must take a pause till the outcome of both the national elections in Israel and the presidential elections in the U.S. become known. This is not only the judgement of seasoned and veteran statesmen and politicians as ex-President Jimmy Carter and Israeli minister without portfolio Ezer Weizman but rather the conclusion arrived at by most knowledgeable observers of the Middle East scene. With the leaders of the two superpowers pre-occupied with nuclear disarmament concerns, other global issues and some regional hotspots other than the Palestinian case, it is now a foregone conclusion that the 7th of December summit between them will not conclusively touch on the Palestinian case or on the elusive international conference on peace in the Middle East. The focus of attention is now on the follow-up summit between the leaders of the two superpowers which is slated to occur next summer as the venue for the discussion of the Palestinian situation and the means to resolve it. This is not to mention the iron-clad commitment by incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the projected international conference will not see the light of day as long as he was the prime minister. Over and above all the preceding considerations is the Gulf situation which has figured most prominently on the agenda of the recently concluded Arab summit in Amman. There is no doubt that the signal to the world that for as long as the Iran-Iraq war continues, it will continue to receive the lion's share of the Arab leaders attention and care. In other words, the arrangement of priorities on the agenda of the Amman summit has clearly served as the barometer of Arab interests in the order perceived by the Arab leaders. The superpowers were the first to conclude that now was not the time to push feverishly the peace process in the Middle East. The rest of the world will surely too gauge Arab priorities on the basis of what had transpired at the Amman summit.

But all these propositions should not lead us to conclude that all is lost when it comes to the peace process in the Middle East and that there is nothing to be done now pending the convening of the next summer summit between Reagan and Gorbachev and the outcome of elections in Israel and the United States. On the contrary there is a lot to be done, from now until then, to lay the solid ground work for the peace process in the Middle East when it becomes opportune to have it kicked off once again in earnest in the wake of the principal events of 1988. In other words the seeds for success or failure of the peace process in the Middle East will be sown in the course of 1988. How the Arab Nation plays its cards

from now on till the end of next year will surely have a great bearing on the those determinative events slated to occur in the course of the time factor between "now" and "then".

To begin with the U.S. presidential elections will be in full swing in the early part of 1988 when the primaries for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations will take place. On the eve of those primaries there will be, of course, the Democratic and Republican Conventions during which the political platforms of both principal political parties will be debated, elaborated and finally articulated. During all these processes, there is a lot that the Arab World can do, not in terms of interfering with them, but rather in terms of influencing them. The recently concluded Arab summit in Amman with its remarkable positive results was clearly a step in the right direction as far as influencing U.S. political thinking during the politically over charged year of campaigning and elections starting with the primaries and culminating in the presidential elections next November. If the Arab leaders can manage to have their ordinary summit in the first half of 1988 so much the better for assuring optimum influence on the course and development of U.S. national mood and stance on issues affecting the Middle East and the Arab Gulf region. Of course the Arab World cannot stop there for there will be other avenues and opportunities which could and should be exploited to convey the "right" signals to the potential national political leaders in the United States, and their constituencies. Surely how the Arab World conducts itself not only with respect to the various global and regional issues but also with respect to Arab domestic concerns as well, will have a profound effect on the U.S. national orientations and perspectives on matters that touch us most. If the Soviet Union with all its might and clout accords the U.S. mood and political thinking one of its highest priorities, surely, the Arab Nation should do likewise and start giving U.S. public opinion its due.

On the Israeli scene, the political situation there is also susceptible to influence. Not that Arab fate and future should be made to hinge on what goes on within Israeli body politic, but rather to advance the Arab cause and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinians in particular and the Arabs in general in the same way that the Soviet Union attempts to promote its view point and outlook on the American scene. Whether the Arab Nation seeks peaceful ways to resolve its conflict with Israel or military means, the course and development of Israeli political thinking and the formation of national political mood within Israel should

remain at all times among our prime concerns and objectives. There is no doubt that how we in the Arab World play our cards vis-a-vis Israel will have an infinite effect on the outcome of their periodic national elections and will have an immense bearing on their strategies and perspectives regionally and even globally. To begin with there is always the reservoir of Arab body politic within Israel proper yet to be tapped. The Arabs of Israel constitute over one sixth of the total Israeli population and the Arab electorates number about 350,000. It is calculated that such a vast number of voters could determine the outcome for more than ten seats in the Israeli Knesset. This is indeed a formidable political power and clout especially if one recalls that the ultra orthodox religious parties in Israel continue to manipulate the makeup and composition of coalition governments in Israel control less than ten seats in the Knesset. The least that the Arab countries should do is to start establishing bridges with the Arabs of Israel with a view to influencing and even directing their vote in such a way as to advance their "peaceful strategies" should they decide and determine that, that is their most viable option at this time. Conceivably, the Arab vote in Israel can still be utilised even if the peaceful process in the Middle East is bogged down and becomes permanently and irrevocably flawed and doomed, and becomes replaced by the military option. But be that as it may, there is a consensus among knowledgeable observers of the Israeli scene to the effect that the average Israeli voter is still basically susceptible to the signals emanating from the Arab World with the exception of those die-hard ultra extreme Zionists within the ranks of Israeli body politic. Should the Gulf war end before the next scheduled Arab summit is convened and the Arab-Israeli conflict is upgraded once again to the position which it has always held on Arab agenda, and the Arab leaders reach the kind of unanimity on the Palestinian case which they appeared to have accomplished in Amman two weeks ago, then they can succeed in sending the right signal at the right time to the Israeli voters to cast their votes next winter in the direction of reasonableness and fairness.

To sum up there is still a great deal to be done in order to create the "culture and environment" favourable to the Arabs and the understanding of their grievances and concerns. One would wish that some sort of a "think-tank" be recruited by Arab states to assist them in the elaboration and articulation of policy guidelines for them to pursue in the promotion and advancement of Arab national causes along the lines suggested above.

Verification — that's the name of the game

By Patrick Worsnip

Reuter

LONDON — A new word has entered the lexicon of superpower relations. It is "verification" and it has fast become one of the most important words of all.

In the language of U.S. and Soviet officials, it means measures to check that the other side is complying with an arms control agreement.

To its supporters, verification makes the difference between a good agreement and worthless one. Critics say it has more to do with political in-fighting in Washington between those who oppose any arms accord with Moscow and those who favour one.

The last problems before agreement was finalised last week on the medium-range missile treaty that U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will sign at next month's summit were caused at the verification clauses.

"There's been a long history of disputes over compliance," said a U.S. arms control official. "It's a problem of mistrust, of reassuring people. We can't have too much verification."

Verification was first raised as a serious problem by the United States, and arms experts trace it back to the U.S.-Soviet SALT-2 strategic arms limitation treaty signed in 1979.

That treaty was never ratified by the U.S. Senate. Officially, President Jimmy Carter withdrew it from the agenda because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, but the agreement in any case did not appear to have enough support to get through.

The Reagan administration, which took office in 1981, charged that SALT, which depended on spy satellites to monitor compliance with missile limits, failed to ensure that the Soviet Union would respect it.

It has since accused Moscow of major violations of the pact.

Now that it has negotiated an arms control treaty of its own, the administration knows it needs strict verification provisions to get it ratified. Some senators remain hostile to the accord.

Arms negotiators boast that the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) pact that Reagan and Gorbachev are due to sign in Washington at their meeting from December 7 to 10 will contain "the most stringent verification regime in the history of arms control."

The treaty and its annexes run to nearly 200 pages — more than all previous U.S.-Soviet arms control treaties put together — and much of that is taken up with verification.

The key measure is "on-site inspection" — having teams of inspectors visit the other country to ensure that it has the number of missiles it says it has, and watch them being destroyed in accordance with the terms of the treaty.

This is far more intrusive than satellites, which could easily

photograph missile silos in the old days of fixed missiles but have more difficulty with today's smaller, mobile and more easily concealed systems.

The Soviet Union resisted on-site inspection until last year when Gorbachev said he could accept it and pointed out to Americans that verification was a two-way process and Moscow would insist on equal rights.

David Aaron, who was Carter's deputy assistant for national security affairs, wrote recently in the New York Times: "When Soviet negotiators formally accepted on-site inspection, it caused deep anxiety to many within the American government, who had never dreamed the Russians would agree."

When Gorbachev said last July that he agreed to abolition of all INF missiles, instead of the previous plan for each side to keep a few, Washington scaled down some verification demands.

"It is obviously very much easier to verify that nothing exists, and therefore anything you find is illegal," Robert Simmons, one of the U.S. negotiating team, explained in a recent interview with the United States Information Agency.

The verification measures in the treaty will keep hundreds of U.S. and Soviet inspectors busy until the end of the century. They will start off by checking that deployed INF missiles correspond to figures exchanged in advance.

The inspectors will later watch as the missiles and their launchers are destroyed by agreed methods over a three-year period.

A SPATE of bold attacks this year by Islamic political activists has increased Western fears that Egypt may be on the verge of religiously inspired upheaval. The mounting popularity of fire and brimstone mosque preachers and the growth of the *Gamaat al-Islamiya* are ominous developments. It would seem prudent to ask whether Egypt could not fall prey to an Iranian-inspired Islamic revolution.

Clearly, Egypt has entered a period of economic and political crisis which is certain to be prolonged and probably at times bloody. Religious revivalism feeds off economic and social distress — or which Egypt has plenty. Severe urban crowding puts pressure on all aspects of social, and economic life; economic stagnation has only been temporarily ameliorated by this year's agreements with foreign lenders, and society is increasingly polarised between rich and poor, rural and urban, Muslim and Copt.

But, despite these negative bellwethers, the possibility that the present political system will be violently overthrown by religious zealots remains remote. Though the Egyptian political system is flawed, it has demonstrated considerable powers of continuity even during times of national crisis. There is no evidence that the Egyptian government cannot continue — barring unforeseen circumstances — to cope effectively with dissent. Built in restraints will almost cer-

tainly prevent a repeat of the Iranian fundamentalist revolution in the most populous Arab state.

First, as the Egyptians themselves frequently point out, Egyptians are not Iranian Shi'ites. The Iranian revolution had as catalyst the religious beliefs and unique historical and cultural experience of the Iranian people and is probably not repeatable elsewhere. Though there is much to fear from the violent tactics propounded by some of Egypt's modern Islamic "reformers," Egypt is protected by luck of the nationwide structure of administrative imams which facilitated transfer of power in Iraq from a secular to a religious hierarchy.

Even more important, the emphasis on martyrdom which drives Shi'ite Islam in its more virulent form is considerably muted in Sunni Islam. It is doubtful that the pragmatic Egyptians could ever be inspired to die as willingly as the Iranians continue to do in their thousands. Certainly the Egyptians, who frequently speak with abhorrence of social upheaval, do not "love" violence or typically resort to it as a solution.

The Egyptians, furthermore, benefit from the negative examples of those who have walked the stony path of Islam as political theory. News of Iranians rioting in Saudi Arabia during this summer's pilgrimage was widely received in Egypt with appalled revulsion — as have been accounts of grisly oppression by the ayatollahs of their political opponents and use of human wave tactics in the war with Iraq. Closer to home, Egyptians are

shocked by what is going on in Sudan.

Many Egyptians have turned to religion for solace and for reaffirmation of identity in a time of deepening economic crisis and social disruption — a major reason for widespread return to traditional dress. But Egyptians are sharply cynical when it comes to politics. Believing no one who offers utopia, whether based on secular or sacred principles, most Egyptians prefer to mind their own business rather than interfere in government — either by joining a religious group which advocates violent opposition or, for some 75 per cent of the population, even by voting in this year's parliamentary elections.

Widespread political passivity is, in fact, an ally of the internal security forces though it does not bode well in the long run for Egypt's democratic development.

Another constraint to revolution can be credited to the Mubarak regime which (unlike the shah's) has opened political pressure valves for a vocal minority by increasing avenues of political expression — if not always unimpeded political participation. Some have argued that new leniency allowing representatives of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to serve in the National Assembly under the guise of coalition with legitimate political groups has facilitated the work of the extremists.

Ironically, Egypt's dependence on external economic aid is probably as much a restraint to structural political change as it is a goad to anti-Western activists. Egypt has no outstanding indige-

nous income source, such as Iranian petroleum, and despite popular grievance over perceived foreign attempts to manipulate Egypt economically and politically, necessarily strengthens the hand of those who reject repudiation of the West and its capital. Other significant deterrents to widespread Egyptian acceptance of any dogma which contradicts that is basic to modern thought and commerce are Egypt's historical ties and physical proximity to Europe — which have produced closer cultural ties to Europe than Iran ever had.

Finally, the geography of Egypt militates against successful popular uprising. The desert which embraces the Nile Valley on both sides has always been the central authority's chief ally in repressing revolt. Though the size of underground Islamic groups, such as the *Takfir wal-Hijra* which assassinated Sadat, remains unknown, the government can still curtail, if not halt, radical activities.

What, then, of Egypt's future? Anti-government violence could be sparked by deprivation and outrage, as it was in the spectacular 1977 bread riots. Early this year, poorly paid members of the Central Security Forces rioted in Cairo when their terms of service were arbitrarily increased. Aware that the limits of popular discontent have yet to be seriously tested, the government moves cautiously to implement reforms, including reductions in subsidies to basic foods, which are critical to Egypt's economic recovery.

— Middle East International, London.

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Effective, simultaneous action must be sought to end Mideast region's conflicts

The following is the speech delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Opening of The Euro-Arab Dialogue III that opened in Amman on Nov. 29.

THE EXTRAORDINARY summit of the League of Arab States held in Amman between 8 and 11 November 1987, has been hailed as a triumph for Jordanian diplomacy by friend and foe alike. Modest as we are in Jordan, we graciously acknowledge this assessment and express our thanks to all. However, what was at stake was not Jordanian diplomacy. At stake was the collective Arab will which had been riven by conflict, strife and mistrust. The fact that no full Arab summit could be convened for five years prior to the Amman meeting spoke volumes for the tragic state of inter-Arab relations. The Arab leaders came to Amman and their countries' security threatened, their territorial integrity questioned and the survival of their states challenged. They were apprehensive about the present and uncertain of the future. The question of Arab collective security was staring them in the face, demanding immediate and comprehensive action to protect the Arab order and preserve its distinct identity.

It was not just the Iranian threat to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It was not just the Israeli challenge to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, but a peril that confronts them collectively, and they had to act as such, to avert the danger. They rose to the challenge. The leaders of the Arab states agreed at Amman to transcend all differences and resolve the causes of their disunity and inaction.

The Amman summit marks a turning point in the history of inter-Arab relations. The reconciliation between Iraq and Syria and the shared perception of the need for an early implementation of 598 must be seen as a significant facet of the Arab World's resolve to end the senseless slaughter, wanton destruction and waste of precious human and material resources. The war must come to an end as all wars do: and the sooner the better, so that these resources can be better deployed towards reconstruction and development.

The spirit of the Amman meeting must be preserved so that the political framework worked out for the implementation of collective Arab action can take shape and become a tangible reality. There will be no limit to inter-Arab political cooperation as all the major differences among the Arab states have been eliminated. The effective implementation of the summit resolutions will provide the best mechanism for the preservation of Arab solidarity. The interdependence of Arab resources and interests in the political as well as economic fields has been the guideline to the resolution of inter-Arab disputes. In the past this work was interrupted for lack of the political will to carry it through, and the absence of coordination among the various participants. This problem is to be rectified. A joint Arab team, formed earlier, will submit its report on the regional integration of the Arab countries. It is hoped that this report will provide a new strategy for Arab economic and political cooperation so that a new basis for inter- and intra-regional collaboration may be laid and followed.

Proud as we are of our Arab achievement at Amman, we were just as heartened to see that the pace machinery of the world body has been given a new lease of life. Superpowers cooperation and the unanimous vote on Security Council Resolution 598 and the Gulf war has injected a fresh impetus in the work of the UN, and given us a new hope that at last the two superpowers

have agreed to grapple with world problems in earnest and jointly. Their collaboration in this field is certainly long overdue.

We Arabs have always impressed on various figures and representatives of the U.S. and the USSR the desperate need for such joint action to defuse the highly explosive situation in the Middle East, and assist in the resolution of all outstanding conflicts in our troubled region. The

There will be no limit to inter-Arab political cooperation as all the major differences among the Arab states have been eliminated.

Arab summit resolution in support of 598 is a clear indication that the Arab World in its entirety demands the implementation of these provisions.

We have long recognised that the danger implicit in the Gulf war goes beyond the two immediate adversaries: Iraq and Iran. It threatens the stability and the security of the entire region.

Increased effort and resolve become even more necessary when differences in perception whether in the Arab World or between the two superpowers on the nature and the extent of the U.N. resolution and its provisions, coupled with the determination of the Iranian leadership at the top to prosecute the war to its bitter end against Iraq are taken into consideration. They must not be allowed to paralyse the peace machinery of the U.N. Failure in this regard would mean that the region is condemned to continuous war and destruction. Such an outcome would inflict untold damage on the peacemaking machinery of the world and put into sharper focus the credibility of Arab leadership and the role of the superpowers. More directly it would put an end to the useful work and progress which the Arabs have made toward the promotion of peace and good neighbourliness in this troubled region.

It is imperative that the problems of the Middle East are addressed at a regional level. The Iran-Iraq conflict bears many similarities to the Arab-Israeli dispute. In some ways they are directly related and cannot be separated. Iran occupies a geostrategic position of considerable importance and what happens to that country as well as to the region would have much wider repercussions than merely the general concern with the free flow of oil supplies to the West, or the Western strategic advantage over the Soviet Union, both of which may prove marginal and ephemeral factors. As such Iran should not be allowed to use its important strategic position as Israel has exploited its close alliance with the United States to vitiate all international action. Diplomatic immobility has its own dangers. Thus constructive cooperation between the two superpowers which ought to be pressed upon them and supported is essential for the success of the U.N. effort, regional security and world peace.

The Amman summit devoted some time to the question of Egypt's readmission to the political councils of the Arab World. It is incomprehensible that when Arab leaders are looking into the problem of Arab national security, Egypt, the most popular and potentially the most powerful Arab state, should be kept out. The rush to establish diplomatic relations between Egypt and several other Arab states in the wake of the Amman summit is an indication of the importance the Arab states attach to Egypt. Joint Arab strategy and defence is likely to be as effective without Egypt

as with the problems of the region rather than deal with their symptoms all the time.

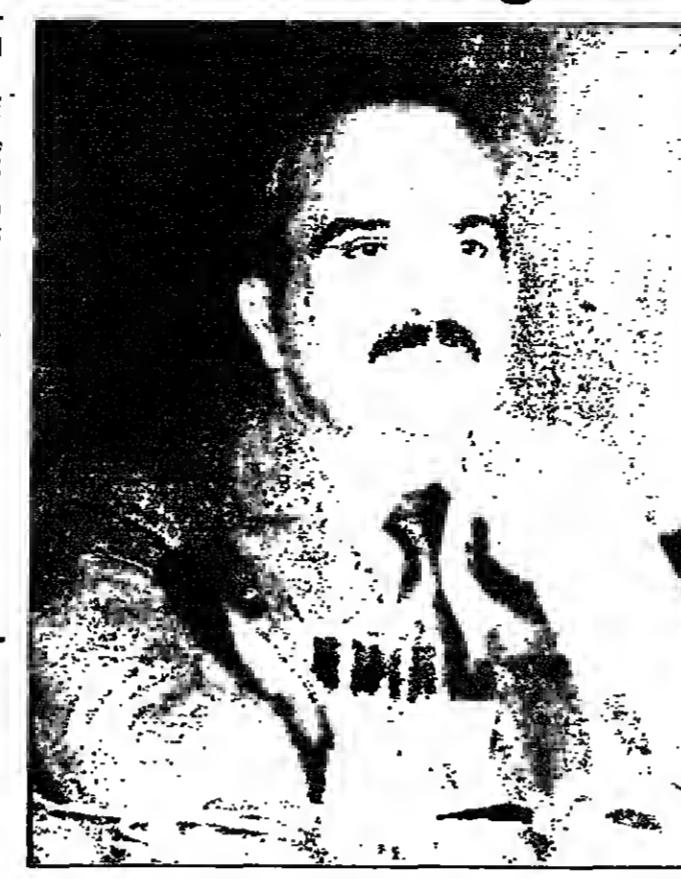
It is imperative that there should be no complacency and delay in the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598. We should not allow ourselves to be so mesmerised by the consensus achieved either at Amman or the U.N. Security Council that this unanimity becomes an end in itself. It provides the means for effective action not only relating to the Gulf, but also on other important and explosive disputes. There is a serious risk in the widely expressed view that all other disputes in the region have been overshadowed by the Gulf war, which must now await the outcome of superpower cooperation to resolve it before other outstanding problems are addressed. It is hoped that the Secretary General of the U.N. would increase his effort and capitalise on the current collaboration to impress upon the Security Council that other conflicts are not left in abeyance and should be tackled simultaneously. Allowed to drift these disputes become more complex and intractable to the detriment of all concerned.

Increased effort and resolve become even more necessary when differences in perception whether in the Arab World or between the two superpowers on the nature and the extent of the U.N. resolution and its provisions, coupled with the determination of the Iranian leadership at the top to prosecute the war to its bitter end against Iraq are taken into consideration. They must not be allowed to paralyse the peace machinery of the U.N. Failure in this regard would mean that the region is condemned to continuous war and destruction. Such an outcome would inflict untold damage on the peacemaking machinery of the world and put into sharper focus the credibility of Arab leadership and the role of the superpowers. More directly it would put an end to the useful work and progress which the Arabs have made toward the promotion of peace and good neighbourliness in this troubled region.

The peace achieved between Egypt and Israel provides the universally accepted precedent for the implementation of the cardinal equation embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 of exchanging peace for territory. Egypt has evolved its commitment to the proposal for an international peace conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli dispute and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council. As we seek a middle path in the face of cynical extremes, Europe and many other parts of the world, have become our partners in this endeavour. It is the only proposal that keeps the peace process in the Middle East alive and viable. Egypt's role and interest provide an important element in that process. It will heighten the desire for peace, improve the capability for development and reconstruction, and act as a stabilising force in this highly volatile region.

Regional peace and Arab security must be underpinned by economic growth and development to increase the wealth and prosperity of all our peoples. National wealth, as you all know, is not measured by the possession of healthy balances in foreign banks. It is, essentially, the acquisition of a national capacity to organise and produce goods and services in order to generate a surplus of both. For these specific purposes a competent management of Arab economic affairs has to be obtained and developed. The problem which needs to be tackled is the lack of a complementary economic strategy that serves the economic interests on a regional level. Inequality in resources, income and wealth is a cause for resentment, recrimination, instability and discord not only within our region but also between the various regions of the world.

The recent crash of the world financial markets came swiftly in the wake of the World Bank



We have long recognised that the danger implicit in the Gulf war goes beyond the two immediate adversaries: Iraq and Iran. It threatens the stability and the security of the entire region.

annual meetings in Washington in late September. It is ironic that the need for increased international cooperation and coordination in dealing with the major economic issues facing the world was the overriding theme of the Washington meetings. Recriminations, accusations and counteraccusations of responsibility for the recent upheaval are increasingly coming out in the open amongst the leading industrial nations. West European countries blame it on the mismanagement of the U.S. economy, while the Americans are critical of the policies of other countries such as West Germany and Japan for the massive trade surplus they have enjoyed over the years. What is clear is that the three ugly sisters of external debt, exchange rates and trade imbalances which were on the agenda of the World Bank meeting have been joined by a fourth — the crisis in the financial markets.

In many instances, Arab countries have been disadvantaged by the ability of the advanced countries to

insulate from regional conflicts, however distant or parochial these may seem at first. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the crisis in Lebanon, the Gulf war and the other disputes simultaneously menace all the states of the region and world peace.

Jordan has been advocating the idea of regional and inter-regional programmes for economic development, to overcome various discrepancies in the provision of

tries to coordinate their economic and political policies, and thus achieve maximum bargaining positions. Apart from oil a recent example is the exploitation of the situation in the Gulf by certain European countries in relation to the EC-GCC dialogue on petrochemical industries. The EC has conveniently divided the Arab World into three main sub-groupings that cover almost all Arab countries: The Maghreb, Mashreq and GCC. Separate negotiations between the EC and each of those groups have taken place without coordination among them, and sometimes to the detriment of all concerned. Arab countries can equally suffer as by-standers in probable triangular split and a global economic cold war that is emerging more openly amongst the USA, Western Europe and Japan.

The high hopes that ensued from the Amman summit of 1980 and the declaration of the Arab Development Decade contrast sharply with the current inability of the Arab states to coordinate their economic policies in the face of an unstable and deteriorating international economic scene. Partial recovery in the major international financial markets will not erase the memory of the events following Black Monday on October 19th, when the stock exchanges of New York fell by 23 per cent, London by 20 per cent and Tokyo by 15 per cent, and the trend has continued despite the hurried measures taken to check the decline. How much Arab money was lost in that collapse is anybody's guess. The estimates are in billions of dollars. This clearly calls, amongst other things, for the revision of investment criteria for Arab capital in Arab countries.

Inter- and Intra-regional frameworks for development can be evolved through the identification of regional plans for different sectors based on a wide ranging pattern of complementarities. The establishment of the Trans-Arabian system, transporting oil from the Gulf across the Arabian Peninsula to the Red Sea, and through the Levant to the Mediterranean has knitted these areas more closely together than ever before. It has changed the nature and volume of trade and consequently the order of priority for economic development. The attempt to by-pass the strategic bottleneck of the Straits of Hormuz has given the Red Sea Basin and the East Mediterranean littoral additional strategic significance, which goes a long way towards explaining the immense interest expressed by the superpowers in the freedom of navigation in these sea lanes.

Moreover, the demographic dimension in this context is no less important. The presence and migration of manpower from Jordan

and the Levant to the countries of the Peninsula and the Gulf has given rise to an unprecedented pattern of complementarities in terms of shared human and financial resources. Thus events in one part of the region have a direct and immediate bearing on all others. A threat to the security of the Gulf emanating from the Iranian quest for hegemony will inevitably imperil the economies of the Fertile Crescent states, just as war with Israel could bring about the closure of the pumping stations or the shipping lanes, shutting off the flow of oil.

The regional linkages and complementarities mean that no state in the region can feel secure or isolated from developments elsewhere, nor can any country be

Joint Arab strategy and defence is likely to be as effective without Egypt as the Western alliance is without the United States or the Warsaw Pact with-out the USSR.

It is these factors which have prompted the notion of the Eurasian Rim of Asia and the need for closer cooperation between the member-states of the OECD and the countries of the Middle East, and between these countries and other regions in the world.

Clearly we must build a more integrated world to avoid the paradoxical situation of building mountains of food north of the Mediterranean while there is famine and starvation to the south of the same sea. Here again what is required is the political will to translate these ideas into tangible machinery to carry out the work. It is not an impossible task, and it is certainly worth the effort.

Experts assess impact and future course of Gulf war

(Continued from page 1)

rab position" reached at the Amman Arab summit. "Time has come when we have to recognise the fact that we Arabs, in view of the (Iranian) revolution, are called upon to take common cause to develop a way to defend centrist politics," said.

Mr. Claude Chevson, the European commissioner in charge of North-South relations of the European Community, addressed Sunday's session. He described the outcome of the Amman summit as "certainly very significant event," and "a chance for all Arabs, even a country that was not present."

"I am deeply convinced that our future in Europe will depend on Arabs living in peace," Mr. Chevson said, adding that the cited Arab position reached

during the summit "may be full of cracks... but it is there."

He said the "time has come when all issues (in the Near East) should be addressed... not only the occupation of territories, but the future of the Palestinian people who should enjoy their rights just like any other people in the world."

"We feel the European Community can bring a direct contribution through (providing) access to our market — the largest in the world — if neighbours can work together," he said. "There is a need for a common market in this part of the world, to try to go beyond disputes."

Dr. Ghassan Salameh, a Lebanese university professor working in Paris, argued in his later comments that containing the Gulf war at this stage and under the conditions of the Security Council ceasefire resolution was not in the interest of coun-

tries in the region.

He said that the Iranians were portraying themselves as a party which is exerting pressure towards exporting the revolution and that "they single out Iraq" as their target.

Dr. Salameh said that the Gulf Arab states portrayed Iranian attacks against them as different from those against Iraq and that they were trying to accommodate the challenge independent from Iraq. He pointed out that the Arab summit reserved the strongest words to lash at Iran in the context of its threats to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, rather than for its war with Iraq.

In discussions on future implications for the Gulf war, Mr. Ekhard Fehr Von Maltzahn of West Germany said that an arms embargo against Iran would not be effective to reach an end to the Gulf war. He said that Iran has self-sufficiency by developing its

own weapons industry and that it had the foreign currency to finance its war machine.

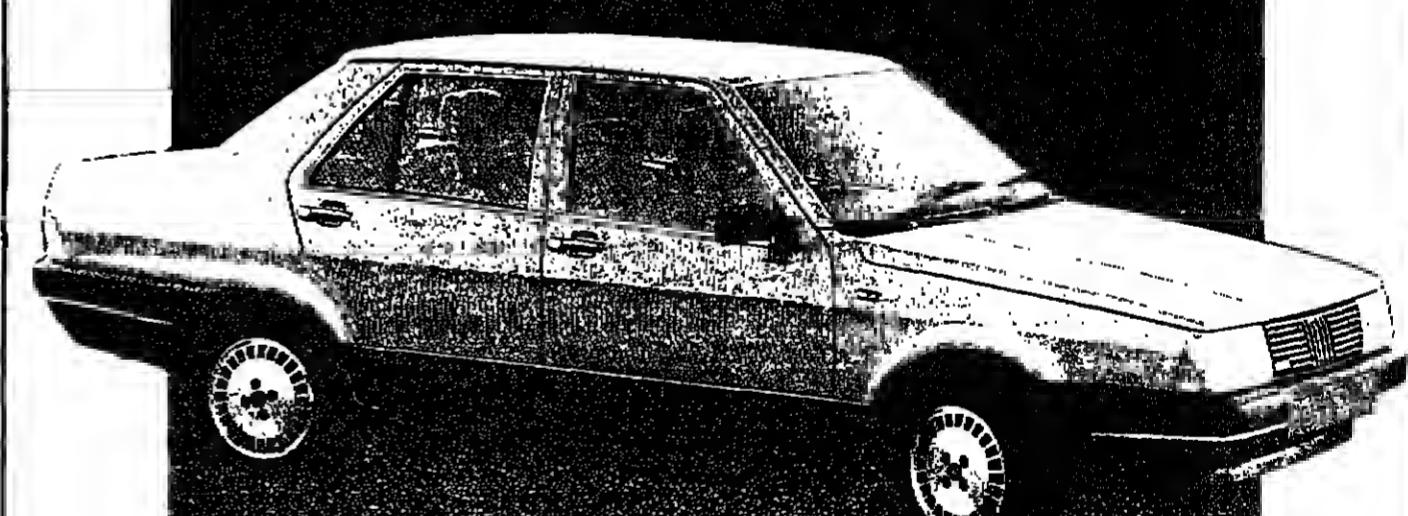
Ambassador Musa Amr of Egypt described the Iranian revolution as one of the most important events this area had witnessed in modern history and that it "will alter the political map" in the region.

He said superpower interests in the Gulf region were in serious conflict.

Mr. Philippe Moreau de Fargues of the French Institute of International Relations said the war could not be put to an end by Security Council Resolution 598. He said the war had changed the societies in the region and that "inside this war, there are several other wars."

He explained that there was a war of a revolutionary regime (Iran) against a conservative regime. The first "seeking a change in the status quo and the other wants to keep it."

ROYAL JORDANIAN'S 24th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



ROYAL JORDANIAN'S 24th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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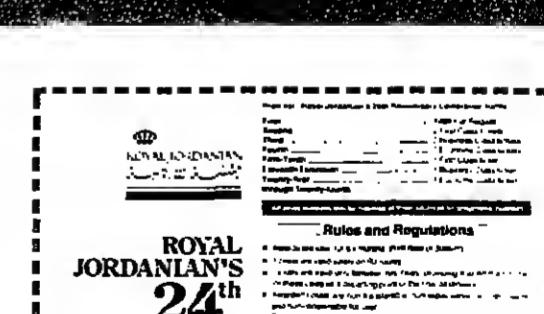
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ROYAL JORDANIAN
Setting new standards

First bodies found from doomed S. African plane

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The bodies of two of the 160 people feared dead in South Africa's worst civil air disaster were plucked from the Indian Ocean on Sunday, more than 24 hours after their Jumbo Jet crashed.

More bodies and debris were likely to be found from the South African Airways (SAA) Boeing 747 which plunged into the sea on Saturday while nearing Mauritius on a flight from Taiwan, Mauritian officials said. Weather was fine at the crash scene.

The search was hampered because the spot about 130 miles north east of Mauritius where the airliner was believed to have gone down was too far for search parties on the island to use helicopters, state-run Radio South Africa said.

South African experts say recovery of the flight recorders which could provide clues to the cause of the disaster will probably be difficult because the aircraft crashed in 3,600 metres of water.

The bodies of a male and a female, whose nationalities and

identities were not yet known, were recovered early on Sunday morning by a French naval vessel, La Grandiere, which joined the search from the nearby French island of Reunion.

Australian and U.S. aircraft have also taken part in the search.

The bodies will be taken to Mauritius for identification, SAA spokesman Nico Venter said.

Fragement of the aircraft and oil slicks have been seen in an area about a half-mile wide and six miles long. Radio South Africa said a radio signal apparently emitted by one of the aircraft's dinghies had been detected.

But airline officials said the dinghy emitted the signal automatically and there was still no sign of anyone having survived.

The cause of the crash remained a mystery. The only clue was the last message radioed by the veteran pilot, Capt. Dawie Uys, who reported smoke in the cockpit when the airliner was 10 minutes away from Mauritius.

Mr. Venter denied reports that the aircraft had left Taiwan late because of a bomb threat or technical problems.

Although departure from Taipei had been delayed by an hour, Mr. Venter said, this was in order to pick up connecting passengers and because of poor weather.

The airliner, designed to carry both freight and passengers, had previously suffered an explosion in an engine, but transport officials dismissed any link between that incident and the crash.

The worst previous disaster in South African commercial aviation was in 1968, when 122 people died in the crash of a Boeing 707 in Windhoek, capital of South African-ruled Namibia (South West Africa).

Gen. Galvin: Soviet military holds key to change

BONN (R) — NATO's new commander believes the Soviet generals hold the key to any change in Moscow's military strength whatever Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev may promise, a West German newspaper said on Sunday.

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Death toll in Indonesia earthquake rises to 42

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The death toll from an earthquake in eastern Indonesia last week has risen to 42, with 75 people still missing, a spokesman of the governor's office said Sunday.

Sixty-three people were injured seriously and 38 others suffered light injuries in the quake, spokesman Fabi Larubara said. The quake hit Nusatenggarra Timur province on the island of Pantar last Thursday.

More than 1,200 homes, office buildings, schools, churches and mosques were destroyed by the tremor, which also caused large tsunami, or seismic waves, to

sweep onto the island.

The epicentre of the quake was located in the Flores Sea, just a few kilometres north of the affected area.

The quake, which measured 5.8 on the Richter Scale, isolated more than 12,000 people in six villages from the rest of the island.

The Richter Scale measures the magnitude of a quake at its epicentre, according to ground motion as recorded on seismographs.

An earthquake of 5 on the Richter Scale is considered "very strong," and a 6 is "severe," capable of widespread damage near the epicentre.

Americans, Soviets see arms reduction as key summit issue

NEW YORK (R) — American and Soviet citizens see nuclear arms reduction as a key issue for their leaders to discuss at the coming summit but differ on the importance of other issues, a Newsweek poll found.

Seventy-eight per cent of the Americans and 86 per cent of the Soviets polled saw limiting strategic nuclear weapons as a "very important" issue for Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev to discuss at their Washington summit starting on Dec. 7.

On medium range and tactical nuclear weapons, 82 per cent of the Soviets saw it as a very

important issue while somewhat fewer Americans, 69 per cent, also called it very important.

Soviets were more confident their country would never be the first to use nuclear weapons, 88 per cent to 21 per cent of Americans, while only 41 per cent of Americans and nine per cent of Soviets were sure a U.S. first strike would never occur.

Virtually all the Soviets felt neither country should put weapons in outer space, 95 per cent agreeing and one per cent disagreeing, while 72 per cent of the Americans agreed and 25 per cent disagreed.

U.S. launches military payload on Titan rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The United States has launched a powerful Titan rocket on Saturday night, which experts believed was carrying a secret military payload into orbit.

The 16-story, \$65-million Titan, one of five remaining in the U.S. Air Force inventory, was launched at 10:27 p.m. (0327 GMT), the air force said.

No advance announcement of the launch was made by the air force, which only confirmed its departure 10 minutes after blast-off.

The Titan launch, the second successful unmanned lift-off following two years of launch failures, was believed by experts to be carrying the latest version of an early warning satellite designed to warn the United States of missiles from beneath the Arctic ice pack.

The last successful Titan launch was at Vandenberg Air Force

Base in California on Oct. 27. Before that, Titan failures in 1985 and 1986 had grounded the Titan programme and continued a string of U.S. space failures that included the Challenger disaster in January 1986, in which seven astronauts were killed.

John E. Pike, head of space policy for the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists, told Reuters the Titan launched here carried "an early warning satellite, a defence support satellite."

Other space experts, who asked not to be named, confirmed Mr. Pike's view.

Mr. Pike said the satellite carried an "over-the-horizon" sensor which would allow the United States to pick up Soviet launches of missiles from beneath the Arctic ice pack.

It would be joining three primary satellites and two backup systems now in orbit, he said.

Polish referendum gets off to slow start

WARSAW (R) — Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski led a slow start to a national referendum on Sunday, casting his vote at a polling station set up in a neoclassical pavilion near his Warsaw residence.

Accompanied by his wife Barbara and several bodyguards, he solemnly cast his vote but made no comment to reporters before walking back home through a small park. A handful of other voters appeared to be unaware of what was going on.

Gen. Jaruzelski is seeking a mandate for radical economic reforms and offering apparent political concessions. The opposition has called the poll a "pointless" exercise.

Voting began at 6 a.m. (0500 GMT) but few people were on the streets of the capital in dull

weather by 9 a.m. Many people were enjoying a lie-in before getting ready for church.

One young doctor, who said she had voted because otherwise she faced trouble at work, reported that she was the first person to cast her vote at her local polling booth at 8:30 a.m.

The outlawed Solidarity union urged Poles to ignore the referendum.

According to the final opinion poll carried out by state television last week, 60 per cent of Poland's 26 million eligible voters said they would take part, 17 per cent said they would not and 23 per cent were undecided.

Among those not polled but definitely not voting was Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who said he would spend the day "in the

bosom of my family" at home in the Baltic port of Gdansk after going to church in the morning.

The television poll said the government would score 51 per cent support for its economic package, whose most immediate effect is likely to be a doubling of food prices and trebling of rent and heating costs.

The government has promised to compensate some increases with higher salaries, but has not yet worked out specific details linked to a basket of goods which a Polish family typically buys each week.

The opinion poll said the authorities would gain slightly wider support — 53 per cent — on a second ballot question dealing with proposals for political and social changes.

Bhutto's party ends boycott of Pakistani polls

ISLAMABAD (R) — Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) ends an eight-year boycott on Monday when it contests national elections for 75,000 local councillors.

Since 1979, Pakistan's main opposition party has maintained that any electoral exercise under military President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq was rigged or illegitimate and refused to take part.

This time, after attempts to mobilise the masses outside the electoral process failed to dislodge Gen. Zia, Miss Bhutto has ordered the PPP's followers into action.

Officially the elections are "non-party" — candidates who use party platforms, symbols or slogans face disqualification. But members are allowed to stand as individuals and the ruling Muslim League too sees the poll as something of a test of strength with the opposition.

Miss Bhutto's announcement that the PPP would sponsor and campaign for candidates it considered favourable provoked disagreements within the party and criticism from allies in the opposition.

martial law. Most deputies elected later formed the Pakistan Muslim League and the civilian government of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

The elections are for district and village councils and municipal committees throughout this nation of 100 millions.

Some opposition politicians fear that even if the PPP does well in the voting, its gains will later be eroded. The last time the party contested non-party local elections in 1979, many candidates elected with its support later defected and others were disqualified.

The opposition, already fiercely opposed to the concept of non-party elections, has alleged that widespread rigging is taking place to ensure a Muslim League win.

Local Government Minister Iqbal Ahmad Khan acknowledged on Saturday that complaints had been received and that some candidates had been threatened with disqualification. But he said many complaints had also come from government supporters.

COLUMNS 7&8

Whisky lovers drink fake Scotch

NEW DELHI (R) — Many Indian drinkers have been expensively swigging the wrong spirit from the right bottle. Police seized 131 bottles of fake Scotch and 470 empty bottles with corks and labels for premium brands like Johnnie Walker and Chivas Regal in a raid on a New Delhi factory, the Press Trust of India (PTI) has said. Police arrested a man who bought empty bottles from scavengers, filled them with local whisky and packaged them in look-alike cartons to sell for nearly 400 rupees (\$30) a bottle — more than four times the price of Indian whisky. India levies high duties on imported whisky, which sells for top prices in the black market.

Hunger strikers seek asylum in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Fourteen inmates at a New York immigration detention centre are engaged in a nearly weeklong hunger strike, demanding they be released while their applications for political asylum are reviewed. "We have a nurse on duty 24 hours a day" and, if necessary, the inmates will be fed intravenously, said Elizabeth Herskovitz, deputy assistant district director for deportations at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS). She refused to say whether the federal agency would honour their request to be freed. They began the hunger strike Monday. Stays in the detention centre can last up to two years. Officials said the hunger strikers, who came from Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Liberia and Nicaragua, had been there an average of 11 months. They include three Iranian stowaways who leaped from the deck of a ship near the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in January. One of them, Mohsen Hoharzadeh, said he was feeling weak and dizzy, and had lost 10 pounds (4.5 kg). "I had headaches, but I am getting used to it. The feeling is, we are going all the way," he said. The centre houses about 120 inmates whose immigration status is under review or who are appealing deportation orders.

Toddler phones for help

LONDON (AP) — Police have said they were worried about a little boy who made an apparently random phone call seeking help for his mother, but was unable to say who he was or where he lived. Police think he may have witnessed an attack on his mother. The boy, thought to be about 3, telephoned a house in the north London neighbourhood of Muswell Hill at 1 a.m. He told the man who answered that his mother and father had had an argument and that his mother was lying on the floor. The man's wife kept the toddler talking for half an hour while he went out to get the police. Police constable Helen Barnett, 21, arrived to speak with the child. "I kept him talking for as long as I could but it was not long enough to trace the call," she said. Miss Barnett pleaded with the boy to say his name but all she could get was that his "nanny" lived in London. She said, "He seemed upset. He kept saying, 'My mummy's on the floor. She's hot. Get her up.' After a while he seemed to get tired and said, 'good night nice lady' and blew kisses down the phone. . . . It was very sad. There was nothing we could do. . . . He could not have been more than about 3 years old," she said. Police said they do not believe the call was a hoax.

Moravia celebrates 80th birthday

ROME (AP) — Alberto Moravia, the Italian author famed for his works on the cynical sexuality and alienation of 20th-century Rome, has celebrated his 80th birthday with friends and his 33-year-old wife. "Festivities are always tiring — and I don't like parties with cakes and candles," quipped Moravia during a televised birthday tribute called "79-plus-1" in which he was surrounded by friends who have interpreted his works, including Italian film director Lina Wertmüller, and wife Carmen Lieru, a Spanish-born publicity agent he married in 1986. "Rome has been the background of many of my stories, but this city's lack of spirituality — Paris is the opposite — it's materialism, its heaviness, are the residues of a civilisation based on conquests and murder," said the author. The programme began with a reading from Moravia's early novel *Agostino*, which explores a 9-year-old boy's discovery of his mother's sexuality amid bourgeois surroundings. "For 19th-century French novelist Honore De Balzac, money was the key to literature. For me sexual relations have the same function," said Moravia, who was born as Alberto Pincherle into a middle-class Roman Jewish family and began his prolific literary career in the 1920s. He won international acclaim in 1947 with the novel *The Woman of Rome*, whose screen version also launched the career of Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida. The 60-year-old actress has agreed to play in a re-make of the film. "I never think of death," says Moravia. "I am a man who has always lived in the present."

U.K. seizes £2m worth of cocaine

LONDON (AP) — Customs officers at Heathrow Airport arrested five Colombians on Sunday, one day after seizing £2 million (\$3.6 million) worth of cocaine in records and children's books. Customs officials said the four women and one man were on a British Airways flight from Bogota, the Colombian capital, to London, where they were to have boarded a flight for Switzerland. The records had been split so the drug, a total of seven kilos (15.4 pounds), could be inserted and the records reassembled. The work was done so skillfully, officers said, that the records could have been played. Dogs trained to sniff out drugs were used to check the luggage of passengers on the flight and they picked out four suitcases. Upon examining the luggage, customs officers found the records and children's books whose covers had been similarly split and reassembled. The arrested Colombians were questioned at Heathrow Airport on Saturday night and customs officers said charges were expected to be made.

Van Cliburn to play at White House

FORT WORTH, Texas (R) — Reclusive American pianist Van Cliburn will play in public for the first time in nearly 10 years at a White House dinner next month for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a spokesman has said. The pianist, who rocketed to international fame when he won the 1958 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, will play at the White House on Dec. 8, said Rice M. Tilley Jr., chairwoman of the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth. "He just feels the time is right," she said. "Russia means so much to him, as well as the cause of world peace." He is expected to play for about 30 minutes and has been preparing music by Brahms, Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff. The pianist is perhaps best known now for the contest named after him, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, which is held every four years in his home town, Fort Worth. The next competition is scheduled for 1989. After he won the gold medal in Moscow, the lanky, curly-headed Texan was embraced across America. For 20 years, he recorded and performed around the world. Then in 1978, he retired from public life and has neither recorded nor played in public since.

WHO gives updated AIDS figures

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that 68,217 cases of AIDS had been reported worldwide as of Wednesday, up by 2,151 from the previous week. It said the additional cases last week were reported by 26 countries. The sharp increase reflected the release of the European Regional Reporting Centre, WHO said. The United States reported 45,436 cases, Britain 1,123, France 2,523 and West Germany 1,400. WHO said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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JUST ONE MORE CHANCE

Both vulnerable South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q74
Q107 4
J102
♦ K63

WEST
♦ 8
♦ K963
Q107 4
AQK742
♦ J1098

SOUTH
♦ K1095
Q8
Q96
♦ AQ74

Opening lead: King of ♦

South **West** **North** **East**

1 ♦ 2 ♦ 2 ♦ Pass